



Montana Public Service Commission

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Montana PSC Convening Western Conference

Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) Vice-Chair Doug Mood announces that the PSC will be hosting the regional meeting of public service commissioners in Whitefish on June 15-18. The Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners (WCPSC) is made up of state commissioners from thirteen western states and meets annually to explore regulatory issues relevant to the western U.S. The conference will be exploring current topics that arise related to the regulation of utilities such as electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications. As President of WCPSC, Mood is responsible for organizing the event being held at Grouse Mountain Lodge.

"There are very few policy decisions that more directly affect members of the western public than public service commission decisions. These are the people who have the responsibility of assuring that customer power and phone bills are just and reasonable," observed Mood. "This conference gives us a chance to discuss the regional aspects of these issues."

"We have several topics to cover in a short time," noted PSC Chair Greg Jergeson, "the variety of speakers ensures the meeting will be very informative."

Marsha Smith, President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and Governor Brian Schweitzer are slated to address the group. Panel discussions include oil and natural gas supplies on federal land, electricity transmission capacity and siting needs, the evolving role of regulation in telecommunications, and energy efficiency. Complete conference agenda details are on the web at psc.mt.gov/WCPSC2008/default.asp.

The membership of the WCPSC includes commissioners in thirteen western states tasked with working to ensure that their citizens receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. In addition to Montana, the states participating in WCPSC are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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